



FACT SHEET



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BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSE: COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

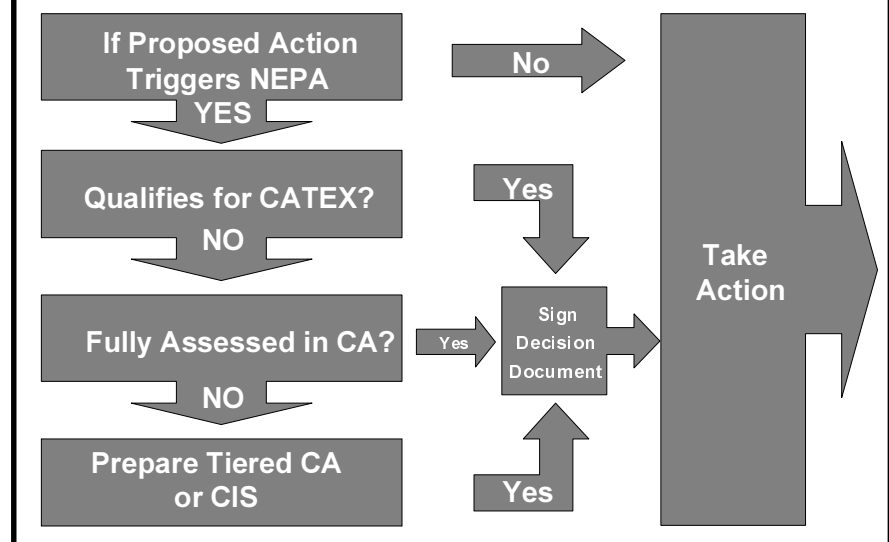
INTRODUCTION

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization's (BMDO's) comprehensive environmental program seeks full compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), enacted on January 1, 1970. NEPA requires that environmental factors receive appropriate consideration in federal agency planning and decision-making. It also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), whose regulations provide the framework for all federal agencies to implement NEPA requirements.

The process of completing the environmental analyses needed to support a federal action, coordinating with State and local agencies, and seeking public participation, when appropriate, is commonly referred to as the NEPA process and is fully integrated in BMDO's mission planning. Figure 1 below illustrates BMDO's method to determine the appropriate level of NEPA analysis and documentation required for an action. There are four possibilities:

1. No NEPA action required,
2. A Categorical Exclusion (CATEX),
3. An Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), or
4. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) to address EIS findings and mitigation measures.

Figure 1: The BMDO NEPA Compliance Approach



BMDO NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES

Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 4715.9 "Environmental Planning and Analysis", May 3, 1996, defines specific NEPA responsibilities for DoD. BMDO Directive 6050 "Environmental, Safety, and Health Program Management for Acquisition Activities", September 23, 1998, implements these responsibilities by:

- Integrating the NEPA process and environmental considerations into planning for all BMDO activities and operations, so that all such activities run concurrently rather than consecutively;
- Planning, programming, and budgeting for environmental, safety, and health (ESH) requirements including NEPA compliance;
- Ensuring decision-makers are cognizant of the potential environmental impacts of their decisions;

BMDO NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES [CONTINUED]

- Encouraging and facilitating coordination with other DoD components and the public on ESH issues that effect them, and the quality of the human environment;
- Implementing procedures to make the NEPA process more useful to decision-makers and the public, reducing paper work and accumulation of extraneous background data, and emphasizing real environmental issues and alternatives;
- Ensuring NEPA documents are clear, concise and supported by the necessary environmental analyses;
- Using the NEPA process to identify and assess reasonable alternatives to proposed actions that will avoid or minimize any adverse effects of these actions upon the environment.
- Based on these responsibilities, the BMDO system engineers and environmentalists work together focusing on understanding both program and environmental requirements. This ensures the critical issues and reasonable alternatives are identified and fully evaluated to support BMDO's decision-makers in their program decisions.

BMDO NEPA STRATEGY

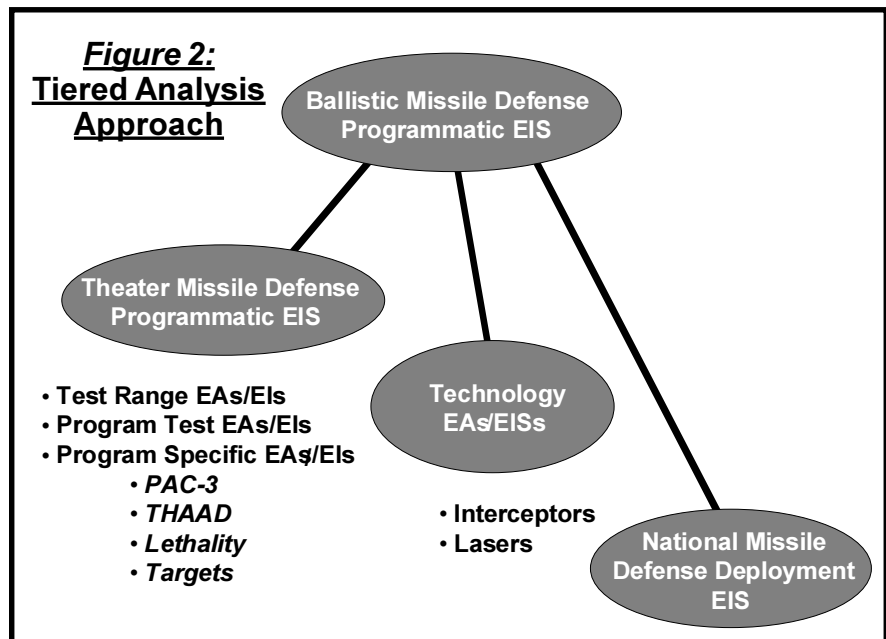
To this end, since 1987 numerous NEPA required actions have been undertaken to review the potential impacts of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) systems. These reviews included:

- Boost, surveillance, and tracking systems,
- Exo-atmospheric re-entry vehicles,
- Interceptor systems,
- Ground-based surveillance and tracking elements and systems, and
- Battle Management Command, Control, and Communications (BMC/3) systems.

Following BMDO's overall strategy, BMDO has prepared two Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements (PEIS) that analyzed the potential effects associated with research and development of BMD systems. The first addressed the acquisition life-cycle environmental impacts for the BMD program. The second BMDO PEIS addressed the potential environmental impacts of the Theater Missile Defense (TMD) program.

Currently, BMDO is analyzing the National Missile Defense (NMD) system's deployment options for potential impacts, which will be documented in the NMD Deployment EIS.

Figure 2 provides a notional overview of the NEPA strategy that BMDO has employed to ensure environmental considerations are addressed in the BMDO program planning and decision-making process. By including environmental planning in the overall systems acquisition process, NEPA compliance has proven to be an effective cost saving, risk reducing and schedule-supporting tool in the system acquisition process.



BMDO is committed to conducting an efficient and effective NEPA program. Therefore, BMDO uses environmental analyses and public participation in the decision-making process for all major federal actions undertaken by BMDO. BMDO, as an “Environmental Steward”, will make decisions on its proposed actions with a full understanding of the environmental consequences of those actions.

Why BMDO Employs Environmental Analyses

- To *Integrate* the NEPA process into early planning, to ensure the consideration of the potential environmental impacts for the proposed action and that reasonable alternatives to the proposed action are addressed;
- To *Ensure* quality program and environmental information is available to the decision-makers and the public before decisions are made and actions are taken;
- To *Focus* on issues that are relevant to the proposed action;
- To *Eliminate* duplication with State and local procedures through joint preparation and the adoption of appropriate environmental documents prepared by other agencies.

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